"LIBERTY, THE UNION, AND THE CONSTITUTION."

CITY OF WASHINGTON, TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 8, 1850.

IN CURTAIN MATERIALS, they ma

P. H. HOOE & CO.

John K. Martin,

IN CONGRESS OF THE U. STATES.

Thirty-First Congress-First Scalor SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1850.

[IN CONTINUATION] SENATE.

THE NAVAL BILL. ber of highly intelligent gentlemen and officers are very strongly of opinion that Poget sound is the best location. It will require some time to make the location. What peculiar opportunities Commodore Jones may have had to form a judgment upon this matter, I cannot say. I can only rely upon authentic information. The Secretary of the Navy is not opposed to the construction of a dry dock there at all. On the contrary, I understand him to be of opinion, that is dock there will be necessary, as we all know that it will be necessary there should be one; but he objects upon two grounds, and I think he well objects upon both of these grounds, to the appropriation one proposed in this bill. One of them is, that, in view of the early day at which Congress will again assemble, he does not think an appropriation for a dry-dock is necessary now. We shall meet again in two months. By that time we shall have a full report; and is we can then decide whether a dock shall be built, and of what description it shall be. But the other objection stated in the Secretary's letter is, that he thinks a permanent stone dock would be better, if Congress determines to make an appropriation now. The appropriation, as it comes from the House, is this: It proposes to build a floating dock, basin, and railway, when we do not know that they will answer the purpose for which a dock is to be built.

By dint of several years' argency upon Congress, ap-

setts, cost about the same as the basin and dock in its neighborhood.

Mr. GWIN. Mr. President, I have very good information, upon which I rely, that the difference in the expense of the two kinds of dock is very great. This question has been thoroughly examined by the Committee on Naval Affairs in the House, who brought in a bill for a floating dock, and it passed the House by an almost unanimous vote. It was thoroughly discussed before it came up here, and is recommended to us by the action of the House.

Mr. GWIN. Well, sir, we want this dock for commercial purposes. I suppose the senators from Maine and Massachusetts would take some interest in having a commercial dock there, where whale and merchant ships could be repaired. It is, however, so obviously our interest to have a dock there, that I'will not detain the Senate by debating the question.

And the second the forest control of the property of the second the forest control of the property of the second the forest control of the property of the second the forest control of the property of the second the forest control of the property of the second the forest control of the property of the second the forest control of the property of the second the forest control of the property of the second the property of the

cing into the service of the United States floating dry docks was first, brought before Congress. I was then a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs, and I recollect very distinctly the great straument by which we were urged to adopt this system. It was upon the score of the building of a stone basin has run it up to a million. You may judge of the cost of such a structure in California under this contract, which requires it obe a floating dock.

Mr. RUSK. As the yeas and nays have been ordered, and as this is a very important amendment, I wish to give often of the promise that the floating dry docks would be exceeding cheap. Well, what is the fact? Why, sir, they are more expensive than your stone docks, while the one is perishable, and can last but a few years and the promise that the foundation. Now, then, they take for a life in the foundation. The property of the cost of such as time to a million. The structure at Kittery was \$\frac{1}{2}\$ is understand it, sin the law. I therefore see no necessity for excluding \(\frac{1}{2}\$ and the provisions of the merchant representation of the structure at the foundation. Now, then, they take for a last but a few years and the provision of the foundation. The property of the cost of the foundation of the presence in the cost is owing to the reason of the great difference in the cost is owing to the selection of the foundation. Now, then, they take for a last but a few years and the provision of the foundation. The property of the cost of the foundation of the law the foundation. The property of the cost of the foundation of the foundation. The provision of the life of the foundation of the foundation. The provision of the foundation of the foundation of the foundation. The foundation of the foundat

tion there to see whether it is not as good as that at Phil-adelphia or Kittery? We are entirely in the dark about it.

Mr. YULEE, (in his seat) Then there is the great

Mr. PEARICE. I will thank the senator to use my words.

Mr. HALE. I cannot use the very words, but I have his idea. His objection is that this measure will benefit the mercantile service, by giving them the means of repairing their ships upon this dock. That is his objection to it, sir; that is a thing that commends itself to my lavor—that while we are making an outlay for the benefit of the United States, we can do something for the private and mercantile marine. Sir, I hope that never will be considered an objection to any enterprise. Gentlemen do not actively understand the nature of this structure. They seem to think that it is such that but a single vessel can be in it at once. Now, I understand the nature of the structure to be such, that it can take in several ships at the same time.

Several Senarors. Oh, no, no.

Mr. HALE. So I was informed, that this dock could take in more than one vessel, and that was the advantage over a stone dock. It is evident that the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs does not understand this matter himself.

this matter himself.

Mr. YULEE. Will the honorable senator give way

for a moment?
Mr. HALE. 1 would rather finish my remarks now.

and it apper on the lace of the earth where one is so much needed. But I feel so consideration the justice of the surface of t

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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